

December 24, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of Section 90.20 and 90.175 of the Commission's Rules for Frequency Coordination of Public Safety Frequencies in the Private Land Mobile Radio Below-470 MHz Band; WT Docket No. 02-285

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I support the opening of competition in the public safety pools to all industrial business and public safety frequency coordinators. On September 19, 2002, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* asking for comments on a proposal that was submitted by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, Inc. (APCO). APCO asked the Commission to allow competitive coordination in the public safety pools.

I run a private land mobile radio dealership with private wireless and public safety licenses that rely on my business to provide reliable equipment and service for their daily safety-of-life communications needs. Servicing these two types of customers has allowed me to see the differences between the competitively coordinated industrial business pools, and the monopoly system in place for the public safety pools. We strongly believe the Commission should open the public safety pools to industrial business and public safety coordinators because of the benefits competition bring to consumers.

The current processing system for public safety pools is an extensive investment in time. Public safety coordinating organizations are inefficient and costly. They have little sense of customer service, much yet the needs of the customer. Neither my customers nor myself have months and months to wait for radio frequencies. At Atlantic Communications we think by simply having a competitive marketplace for public safety pools, among industrial business and public safety coordinators, these current obstacles encountered when applying for frequencies would be gone.

There have been many gains that have come out competition in the industrial business pool. Through the last several years I have seen these results of competitive coordination, since the consolidation of the PLMR services. The quality of work has increased and the costs decreased. Additionally, the process is now much more efficient. ITA has saved me

plenty of man-hours with not only with enhanced customer service, but services available online. This would also happen in the public safety pools.

We look forward to working with the Commission on the introduction of competition in public safety pools among industrial business and public safety organizations.

Sincerely,

F.O. Blount Jr., President  
Atlantic Communications Inc.  
925 48th Street  
Newport News, VA 23607